

PLEDGING RITUAL OF
THE PHANTOM MASK SOCIETY

NOTE : Candidates for pledging to THE PHANTOM MASK shall assemble at a designated place and hour agreed upon as being convenient. The actual pledging ceremony shall take place in a broadcasting studio where all the implements and devices of the broadcasting profession are present. Immediately before the pledging ceremony, each candidate shall be blindfolded and led into the studio by two members---one on each side. They shall be led to a pre-designated spot in the studio in alphabetical order and left standing there--alone. They shall be placed so that they cannot touch each other. After all the candidates are in position and upon the signal being given the following shall take place.

SOUND: TREMENDOUS CRASH OF A GONG

VOICE: THIS IS THE PHANTOM MASK.....Ever watchful...ever present, we have observed your interest in and the services you have rendered to the cause of RADIO DRAMA...either as an actor, writer, or producer. Your peers have deemed you worthy of honorable recognition and by a unanimous vote have elected you to membership in THE PHANTOM MASK. But before you can be admitted into full membership in this society and assume all of the duties and responsibilities pertaining thereto, it becomes necessary for , the neophyte, to further prove yourself and serve a prescribed term of pledgeship to this society.

You are within the four walls of a broadcasting studio...around you are the implements of the profession and business in which you have manifested more than a cursory interest. As actors, writers and producers in radio drama, you were led into the studio blindfolded but assisted to your place of honor in our midst by two strong arms. This was done, primarily, to teach you the all-important lesson of HUMILITY. That as actors, writers and producers, you must lean heavily on the arms of others in your chosen field of interest in order to achieve greatness. You, the actor would be speechless without the words of the writers and the keen discerning ear and intellect of the producer; you, the writer, would be mute if you had not the voice of the actor to translate your cold words into living, breathing emotions ; you, the producer would be nil without the writer and actor who supply you the materials with which you work. This then is the lesson of humility and understanding of the help of others whereby, in your mutual efforts, you bring to the ~~unjustified~~

VOICE : the uninitiated the beauties of drama through the medium of radio.

You are blindfolded now to impress upon you the horror of being in darkness -- the darkness of bloated egotism and self-satisfaction. Radio is a new thing --- the youngest of the arts. But in its youth there are certain advantages. New and greater horizons are being opened up each day within it to those who have eyes to see and minds to comprehend. You must not allow your talent and thinking to become stagnant and satisfied with what is already within your grasp. You must continually seek out those things which will add to your storehouse of knowledge about radio and radio drama in particular. Without this attitude, you will continue in utter darkness as you now are.

You are to be reminded of still another virtue you must exercise as a pledge and in your intended role as an active member of THE PHANTOM MASK ----LOYALTY. Loyalty to those in authority over you...loyalty to the society which has as its purpose the promotion of an interest in RADIO DRAMA. As your name is called, you will be led forward to have pinned upon your person the token of pledgeship which you, of your own free will, aspire to receive.

NOTE : As the name of each person is called, two members, one on each side will lead the neophyte forward to a front and center position before the person who is to pin the ribbon on them.

VOICE : NAME..... (NAME) , at your side are two members of this society who will help you carry out ~~your~~ those duties and responsibilities which may be assigned you in order that you may prove yourself worthy of full membership in this society. Facing you is the President of our society who is pinning on you the colors of our society,----BLACK ON SILVER. The black is symbolic of the darkness you now are in....the ignorance of things pertaining to radio drama before you willed to set out on the long journey towards the goal of your achievements therein.....the silver symbolizes the rare honor which will be yours when your period of pledgeship to this society

VOICE : is duly performed and the glorious light which will shine about you as you continue to progress in this your chosen interest in life.

This shall be the test of your loyalty and pride in the society to which you are now pledged: Upon an individual asking you: "What are those colors?", you shall answer: Black on Silver are the colors of THE PHANTOM MASK (Candidate must repeat the answer after the VOICE) "What is the PHANTOM MASK?" may be THE there next question. To which you must reply: Phantom MASK is an honorary radio society in which I humbly aspire to become a member. (CANDIDATE MUST REPEAT THIS AFTER THE VOICE)

NOTE : THIS IS REPEATED FOR EACH OF THE CANDIDATES. AS THE LAST ONE IS PINNED AND QUESTIONS ASKED THEN----

VOICE : You each stand before The PHANTOM MASK, proudly wearing the colors of this our society. You will be notified as to the time and place when with solemn rites you will be inducted into full membership. In the meanwhile I charge each and every one of you to be HUMBLE, LOYAL and EVER VIGILANT of the NEW. In darkness you came here before us.....in darkness you must go until that moment when you will be received into full fellowship. The PHANTOM MASK has spoken.

SOUND : CRASH OF THE GIANT GONG

MUSIC : AS THE PROCESSIONAL IS PLAYED....CANDIDATES ARE QUICKLY LED FROM THE STUDIO TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY ASSEMBLED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING... THERE TO BE UNBLINDFOLDED AND CONGRATULATED.